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Contact: **PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE**

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Phone: **(603) 646-4292**

Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory • 72 Lyme Road • Hanover, NH 03755-1290 • <http://www.erdc.usace.army.mil>

COLD REGIONS LAB CO-SPONSORS 8th ANNUAL SOLAR CAR RACE

The U.S. Army Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory, with other area businesses, will sponsor the Eighth Annual Upper Valley Junior Solar Sprint (JSS) Championships on Thursday, May 25. The Championships will be held at the Carter-Witherell Center in Lebanon, N.H., from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

This event will bring together approximately 200 seventh- and eighth-grade students from 17 area schools and over 100 solar-powered model cars from central and northern Vermont and New Hampshire. These students have designed, built, and will now have the opportunity to race their solar model cars. This is one of several area races throughout New England that will qualify winning racers for the Regional Race to be held at Turners Falls, Mass., on Saturday, June 17.

The Junior Solar Sprint is a science-based design and performance competition. The key components, a solar panel and a small electric motor, are provided to the students. The remainder of the car is designed and built by a small team of students with help and advice from parents, local engineers and scientists from the public and private sector along with their teachers. The object of the 2000 JSS competition is to design and build a vehicle that will solve a common engineering problem: transport a payload from one place to another in the shortest time possible, using only the available solar power (in the event of rain, the races will be held indoors and battery packs will be provided).

Over the past eight years, this program has introduced over 4,000 students from 43 local schools to engineering in the real world. The schools in our region have done exceptionally well in the New England area races, and the Upper Valley area is the only area in New England that has placed multiple cars in the finals every year since the beginning of this program.

At the conclusion of the competition top finishers in speed and design will be recognized during the awards ceremony which will commence at 2:30 p.m. More information may be obtained by contacting Ms. Bonnie Jones at (603) 646-4681,

email: bjones@crrel.usace.army.mil or Mr. Byron Young at (603) 646-4602, email:
byoung@crrel.usace.army.mil.

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